



The Office of the Dean (Vicar Forane)

The Archdiocese of Vancouver is divided into six territorial regions called Deaneries. The Archbishop appoints a Dean in each Deanery to assist him by, among other things, promoting common pastoral activity in a region of the Archdiocese and in providing spiritual and pastoral counsel to the other priests in that region (cf. Code of Canon Law, c. 553 §1).

A. Appointment, Qualifications and Term

1. Deans are appointed by the Archbishop after consultation of the priests in each Deanery.
2. A Dean shall be one of the priests holding an appointment in or residing in the Deanery to which he is appointed.
3. Priests with Pastoral Centre/Archdiocesan-wide assignments are members of the Deanery in which they reside.
4. The office of Dean is not tied to any given parish, and not even to the office of parish pastor (c. 554 §1), so that the most qualified priest may be chosen (e.g., a chaplain).
5. Only a priest with faculties in the Archdiocese of Vancouver is eligible to be appointed as Dean.
6. In the Archdiocese of Vancouver, the term of office for Deans is three (3) years (cf. c. 554 §2). Appointments are normally made in the month of September.
7. In anticipation of the expiry of a Dean's term, and allowing sufficient time for the Archbishop to appoint Deans in September, consultation shall take place by an email ballot sent by the Chancellor of the Archdiocese.
 - a. A list of eligible candidates shall be included with the ballot.
 - b. Each priest eligible to be consulted shall provide one response only.

B. Vacancies and Removal

If a Dean resigns prior to the completion of his term, the Archbishop shall appoint a Dean to complete the term.

The Archbishop may remove a Dean from office for a just cause in accordance with his prudent judgment (cf. c. 554 §3).

C. Oath

Deans shall make a Profession of Faith and Oath of Office in the presence of the Archbishop or the Vicar General.



D. Responsibilities

The Dean shall inform the Archbishop or the Vicar General of any matter in any parish within the Deanery which it is necessary or useful for the Archbishop to know.

The canonical duties of the Vicar Forane are listed in c. 555, and are commonly classified under three categories: promotion and coordination, vigilance, and support and counsel. The Dean has the duty and right of:

1. Promoting and coordinating common pastoral activity in the Deanery (cc. 374 §2, 555 §1 1°);
2. Convening Deanery meetings every month;
3. Leading by example and ensuring that the clergy in the Deanery lead lives in keeping with their state and perform their duties diligently (c. 555 §1 2°);
4. Functioning as an agent of communication between the Archbishop and the priests in the Deanery;
5. Seeing to it that religious functions are celebrated according to the prescripts of the sacred liturgy, and that the beauty and elegance of churches and sacred furnishings are maintained carefully, especially in the Eucharistic celebration and custody of the Most Blessed Sacrament (c. 555 §1 3°);
6. Ensuring that the parochial registers are inscribed correctly and protected appropriately, and that ecclesiastical goods are administered carefully (c. 555 §1 3°);
7. Ensuring that the rectories of parishes in the Deanery are cared for with proper diligence (c. 555 §1 3°); and
8. Ensuring that spiritual supports are available to the priests in the Deanery, especially for those who find themselves in more difficult circumstances or are beset by problems (c. 555 §2 2°).

Besides these supra-parochial duties, the Dean has a role of consultation and collaboration with the Archbishop. The Dean should be consulted in the appointing of parish pastors (c. 524), and parochial vicars (c. 547). He may be called by the Archbishop for meetings, discussion or information on the condition of the Deanery.

E. Deaneries in the Archdiocese of Vancouver

There are six Deaneries in the Archdiocese of Vancouver:

1. Fraser Valley East Deanery

Our Lady of Good Hope Parish (Hope)
Saint Ann Parish (Abbotsford)
Saint Anthony of Padua Parish (Agassiz)
Saint James Parish (Abbotsford)
Saint Joseph Parish (Langley)

2. Fraser Valley West Deanery

Canadian Martyrs Parish (Richmond)
Immaculate Conception Parish (Delta)
Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish (Surrey)
Precious Blood Parish (Surrey)
Sacred Heart Parish (Delta)



(Fraser Valley East Deanery, cont.)

Saint Joseph Parish (Mission)
Saint Nicholas Parish (Langley)
Saints Joachim & Ann Parish (Aldergrove)
Westminster Abbey (Mission)

3. New Westminster Deanery

All Saints Parish (Coquitlam)
Holy Spirit Parish (New Westminster)
Our Lady of Fatima Parish (Coquitlam)
Our Lady of Lourdes Parish (Coquitlam)
Our Lady of Mercy Parish (Burnaby)
Our Lady of the Assumption Parish (Port Coquitlam)
Saint Agnes Kim Parish (Coquitlam)
Saint Clare of Assisi Parish (Coquitlam)
Saint Francis de Sales Parish (Burnaby)
Saint Joseph Parish (Port Moody)
Saint Luke Parish (Maple Ridge)
Saint Michael Parish (Burnaby)
Saint Patrick Parish (Maple Ridge)
Saints Cyril & Methodius Parish (New Westminster)

5. Vancouver East Deanery

Corpus Christi Parish (Vancouver)
Holy Cross Parish (Burnaby)
Holy Family Parish (Vancouver)
Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish (Vancouver)
Our Lady of Fatima Parish (Vancouver)
Sacred Heart Parish (Vancouver)
Saint Casimir Parish (Vancouver)
Saint Francis of Assisi Parish (Vancouver)
Saint Francis Xavier Parish (Vancouver)
Saint Helen Parish (Burnaby)
Saint Joseph Parish (Vancouver)

(Fraser Valley West Deanery, cont.)

Saint Andrew Kim Parish (Surrey)
Saint Bernadette Parish (Surrey)
Saint Joseph the Worker Parish (Richmond)
Saint Matthew Parish (Surrey)
Saint Monica Parish (Richmond)
Saint Paul Parish (Richmond)
Star of the Sea Parish (Surrey)

4. North Shore Deanery

Christ the Redeemer Parish (West Vancouver)
Church of the Assumption Parish (Powell River)
Holy Family Parish (Sechelt)
Holy Name of Mary Parish (Bella Coola)
Saint Anthony Parish (West Vancouver)
Saint Edmund Parish (North Vancouver)
Saint Joseph Parish (Squamish)
Saint Mary Parish (Gibsons)
Saint Paul Parish (North Vancouver)
Saint Stephen Parish (North Vancouver)

6. Vancouver West Deanery

Blessed Sacrament Parish (Vancouver)
Guardian Angels Parish (Vancouver)
Holy Name of Jesus Parish (Vancouver)
Holy Rosary Cathedral (Vancouver)
Immaculate Conception Parish (Vancouver)
Opus Dei House
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish (Vancouver)
Saint Andrew Parish (Vancouver)
Saint Anthony of Padua Parish (Vancouver)
Saint Augustine Parish (North Vancouver)



(Vancouver East Deanery, cont.)

Saint Jude Parish (Vancouver)
Saint Mary Parish (Vancouver)
Saint Paul Parish (Vancouver)
Saint Theresa Parish (Burnaby)

(Vancouver West Deanery, cont.)

Saint John the Apostle Parish (Vancouver)
Saint Mark Parish (Vancouver)
Saint Patrick Parish (Vancouver)
Saints Peter & Paul Parish (Vancouver)

**Approved: 2018-August-24
Feast of St. Bartholomew**

+ J. Michael Miller CSB

**† J. Michael Miller, CSB
Archbishop of Vancouver**

**The following policy is hereby superseded:
*Deans, effective May 11, 1959.***